Northwest Washington Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Soundings

Vol. 26, Issue 11 December 2010

A Word From The Bishop

by The Rev. Wm Chris Boerger, Bishop

First, I want to thank this Synod for allowing me to take three months as a sabbatical. I return to work rested and 15 pounds lighter. It was a time for reading, working around the house, playing with grandchildren and learning from our sisters and brothers in South Africa. I have much to share as time and opportunities allow.

I return to a church and synod that is facing the realities of the financial crisis.

Literally my first meeting back at work was the Conference of Bishops in executive session learning of the then proposed, now adopted, staffing proposals and redesign of the churchwide expression of this church. Sixty-five people, or 60 full-time equivalent positions, will be gone from the Chicago office by February 1, 2011. This includes three

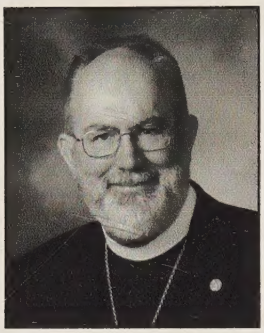
continued on page 2

> For, as I can testify, they voluntarily gave according to their means, and even beyond their means, begging us earnestly for the privilege of sharing in this ministry to the saints–and this, not merely as we expected; they gave themselves first to the Lord and, by the will of God, to us, so that we might urge Titus that, as he had already made a beginning, so he should also complete this generous undertaking among you.
>
> 2 Corinthians 8:3-6 NRSV

PROCESSED
DEC 14 2010
GTU LIBRARY

continued from page 1

A Word From The Bishop



The Rev Wm Chris Boerger

executive directors, program people and support staff.

The various units of the church have been restructured into three. Congregational and Synodical Mission will be responsible for the domestic work of this church. Global Mission will be responsible for the global work of this church. Mission Advancement will be responsible for developing the resources needed to do this work.

The reality is that we have cut the staff of the churchwide organization to bare bones. Fewer people will try to keep our common work going, but some of that work will not get done or get done as quickly as we have come to expect.

On returning to the synod office it is clear that we will have to make additional cuts as well. We are still projecting what 2010 will mean. It is clear that we will be doing additional across the board cuts in salaries and in partnership grants. I am inclined to look at reducing the hours worked by synod staff rather than looking at position reductions. This may affect the way we answer the phone in the office or the speed by which we send out the e-alerts.

I hear that congregations are cutting budgets and that staff positions are being lost at the congregational expression of the church. These are most interesting and difficult times.

And yet God has called us to be the church in this time. The grace of God given us in Baptism is not in recession. The power of God given us at the Lord's Supper is not being reduced. The breathing of the Spirit through the Word of God is what gives us life and breath even in

continued on page 3

Continued from page 2

A Word From The Bishop

our laments.

I am confident that God is calling us to faithful witness in these times. It may be a different witness than I expected to give, but it is still a witness to the healing and transforming power of Jesus Christ.

God's church is not my possession or mine to control. God's church will speak the Gospel and share God's compassion to those in pain. God's church will care for this creation as if it belonged to God. We will be different when this time has changed. We will still be the church of Jesus Christ. Thanks be to God.

Editor's Note: For more information about the changes at churchwide please visit www.elca.org click on Office of the Presiding Bishop and then click on Messages and Statements.

***Soundings** is published monthly (one combined issue for May/June) by the Northwest Washington Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,*
206-783-9292 or 1-800-244-6997 (Wash. State); Fax: 206-783-9833.
office@lutheransnw.org; www.lutheransnw.org
Deadline for copy of the January 2011 issue of Soundings is Wednesday, December 1.
Current and archived issues can be found on the synod's website.

Synod Staff:
The Rev. Wm Chris Boerger, Bishop—boerger@lutheransnw.org
The Rev. Jan Nesse, Assistant to the Bishop—nesse@lutheransnw.org
The Rev. Jerry Buss, Director of Evangelical Mission/Assistant to the Bishop—buss@lutheransnw.org
The Rev. Nancy Winder (ret.), Assistant to the Bishop for Candidacy—candidacy@lutheransnw.org
Jim Goeben, Webmaster—jim@lutheransnw.org
Elaine Harrison, Synod Relations Administrator—elaine@lutheransnw.org
Margit Peiffle, Synod Communications Administrator—margit@lutheransnw.org
Margaret Spatafore, Synod Office Administrator—margaret@lutheransnw.org

A Day Of Renewal

World AIDS Day is December 1, 2010. In keeping with the ELCA HIV and AIDS Strategy and its call to us as a church to pray, to advocate, to educate, and to care for those with HIV and AIDS in our world, you are encouraged to mark this important international day of remembrance for the pandemic of AIDS, whether in your congregation or in your home.

Worship and educational resources are available at www.elca.org/aids , including a leader guide for screening the powerful HBO film, The Lazarus Effect, which is about the dramatic and hopeful impact of antiretroviral drugs in southern Africa.

A newly released ELCA HIV and AIDS Congregation Action Kit is also be available at www.elca.org/aids with resources for your congregation or ministry setting to assist you in lifting up this church's response to HIV and AIDS throughout the year.

Dedication Of Pipe Organ

Dedication of the new Wech Pipe Organ at Queen Anne Lutheran will take place at both worship services (8 and 10:30 a.m.) on the Second Sunday of Advent, December 5. A Dedicatory Concert will be held at 3 p.m. David Dahl, Pacific Lutheran University's Professor of Music and University Organist Emeritus, will be the recitalist at the afternoon concert. David Dahl was consultant to the congregation's New Pipe Organ Committee. The instrument was built by Robert Wech in Buchloe, Germany, disassembled and shipped by container to Seattle, arriving on September 1. The installation at Queen Anne by Wech and his crew was completed on October 29.

A Vision For Mission

Please join others who are interested in being part of a conversation to discover and articulate a *Vision for Youth Ministry in the Northwest Washington Synod.*

This conversation will take place from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 20, at Holy Spirit Lutheran Church, 10021 NE 124th, Kirkland, WA 98034. A light lunch will be served.

[Full disclosure: we may take donations for lunch if we think of it. The important thing is that you come.]

Register by email to: nesse@lutheransnw.org. (We'd like to plan for food and seating; and please include the names of people in your congregation who will attend.)

Advent Open House

The annual Synod Office Advent Open House will be held from 1 to 5 p.m. on Thursday, December 9, at the synod office.

May the Birth of Him
Who Was Born in a
Manger Bring You
Blessings of Joy, Peace
Love and Hope in the
New Year and Always. Bishop Chris Boerger and Staff

A Taste Of Christmas

You are cordially invited to *A Taste of Christmas* Open House at The Hearthstone. Come listen to live holiday music, have cookies and enjoy the decorations with us from 2 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 5 at The Hearthstone, 6720 E. Green Lake Way N; RSVP: 206-774-5153.

Come To The Water

The next *Come to the Water* Ecumenical Catechumenal Process Training Event will be held February 18-19, 2011 at St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Vancouver, Washington.

Speakers for the event are Bishop Rob Hofstad, Southwestern Washington Synod and Ann McElligott, Episcopalian and author of *The Catechumenal Process: Adult Initiation and Formation for Christian Life and Ministry.*

Other leadership will be provided by pastors and lay leaders from the Episcopal Diocese of Oregon and the Oregon and Southwest Washington Synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

This training event is recommended for congregation teams of two or more and will provide participants with the background and resources they need to begin a catechumenal process in their congregation.

The cost is $30/person and will include some meals. A pre-event will feature an opportunity to learn about and walk a prayer labyrinth. A brochure can be downloaded at http://catechumenate.org/uploads/file/Water2011.pdf or contact Pastor Martha Maier, maierm@comcast.net or 360-892-7160.

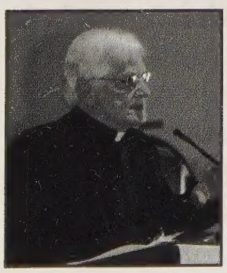
The catechumenal process is a journey of faith formation for those new (and not so new) to Christianity. It goes beyond the traditional study of "what Christians believe" and incorporates worship, prayer, small groups, reflective Bible reading, sponsors and ministry in daily life into a process that changes lives and makes disciples. This process not only transforms lives, but it can transform congregations as well. For more on the catechumenate, visit http://catechumenate.org.

Sponsorship Of Apartment

Nativity Lutheran in Renton presented a check to MJ Kiser (second from left) from Compass Veterans Center Renton. The check for $2000 is for the sponsorship of a studio apartment. With MJ Kiser are (left to right) Cydney Korneliussen, Pastor Martha Myers and Pat Wyre.

120 Years And Going Strong

On Sunday, November 7, members of Central Lutheran in Seattle celebrated their 120th anniversary with several current and former pastors in attendance: (clockwise) Linda Larson, Verlon Brown and Eldon Olson.



Interfaith Thanksgiving Eve Service

Bucking the trend of growing national religious mistrust, several Seattle faith communities are joining together to host the third annual Thanksgiving Eve service on Phinney Ridge. The November 24th service will begin at 6:30 p.m. at Sakya Buddhist Monastery, 108 NW 83rd St, with the traditional spinning of the Tibetan prayer wheels. A candlelight procession to Phinney Ridge Lutheran, 7500 Greenwood Ave N, will follow at 7 p.m., where the remainder of the service will take place at 7:30 p.m.

Participating congregations include Masjid Umar Al Farooq in Mountlake Terrace, Temple De Hirsch Sinai on Capitol Hill, and the following congregations in Greenwood/Phinney Ridge: Luther Memorial Lutheran, Sakya Tibetan Monastery, St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church, Woodland Park United Methodist Church, Phinney Ridge Lutheran, Woodland Park Presbyterian Church (USA), and St. John United Lutheran. The public is encouraged to attend.

3DM Taster Retreat

Update: The event dates have changed to January 25-26; 2 p.m. on the 25th to start and to end at 9 p.m. on the 26th; event location is Pine Lake Covenant Church, 1715 228th Ave SE, Sammamish. *(Sammamish Hills Lutheran Church apologizes for these changes.)*

The 3Dm taster is designed to give leaders "a taste" of the range of resources and tools 3DM uses in equipping/ resourcing leaders to engage with today's culture with a missional mindset. Please watch the two minute story @ www.weare3dm.com. For more information and registration please contact Holly at hoc@shlc.org.

Congregations

Safe and Healthy

Is your congregation interested in preparing clergy and lay leaders to intervene in and prevent family violence, and to create safe congregations and facilities?

You are invited to apply for a three-day *Safe and Healthy Congregations* Lutheran Advocates for Safe Families training session to be held February 2-4, 2011, in San Francisco, Calif.

Each three-day training event will educate and equip congregational leaders in the area of adult domestic violence prevention, healthy teen relationships, reducing the risk for child abuse and pastoral care for survivors. Through these practical events, ELCA congregational leaders become part of the larger constellation of this church, fulfilling the call to denounce and combat domestic violence and violence against women.

The Lutheran Community Foundation is making the training, materials and lodging available at no cost, and they may also provide some financial assistance for travel upon acceptance to the training.

Application is due no later than December 1, 2010: www.thelcf.org/safe_families_training. More information on the training is available at www.thelcf.org/lasf_training_info.

Fundraiser With Swedish Pancakes

From 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 4, Magnolia Lutheran (2414 31st Avenue West, Seattle, WA 98199 206-284-0155) is sponsoring a Swedish Pancake Breakfast to benefit Lutheran Community Services and ALS (Northwest Chapter).

On the menu are Swedish pancakes with lingonberries, toppings, ham, fruit, coffee, tea and juice. Suggested freewill offering $10 adults and $5 children (under 12).

Electric Car Charging Station

At Wooden Cross Lutheran

Wooden Cross Lutheran in Woodinville became the first church in the nation to install the fast electric vehicle charging station, compatible with all the electric cars arriving in North America this year. The recent Chevy Volt National Tour kicked-offat Wooden Cross, charging for the first time ever at a publicly available charging station. This charging station is part of a larger "greening program" at Wooden Cross which includes state of the art low energy lighting, recycling, composting, the use of post-consumer waste products, a youth environmental education study focused on the National Wildlife Certification program, and many more practices.

(l to r) James Billmaier (author of "Jolt! The Impending Dominance of the Electric Car and Why America Must Take Charge"), Bishop Chris Boerger, Congressman Jay Inslee and Pastor Woody Carlson.

Good Gifts

ELCA *Good Gifts* are an opportunity to go beyond your regular congregational offering to support and strengthen the work of the ELCA.

There are 65 different "gifts" available for you to choose, from $10 to $500. Visit www.elca.org/goodgifts.

Endowment Grants

Each year the Gethsemane Mission Endowment Fund Committee makes available grants for mission in outreach to the community, the Northwest Washington Synod and the ELCA or other international ministries. If you know of a program or entity needing grant assistance, this may be the way to support Christ's work.

The Fund Committee encourages all non-profit entities that meet the criteria as stated on the application forms to apply for 2011 grants. The grant awards provide for funds to be directed to entities that would not otherwise be able to carry out their mission utilizing regular stewardship, benevolence, social ministry and evangelism efforts.

The 2011 Grant Application Form will be available by Nov. 1 on the Gethsemane Lutheran Church website at: www.urbanfaith.org. Applications will be accepted from January 1, 2011 until the deadline date of February 28, 2011. Grant award recipients will be notified in May, 2011. Six and 12 month reports explaining how the funds are being used will be required.

New President Installed

Trinity Lutheran College

Trinity Lutheran College officially installed President John Reed at an Oct. 16 ceremony in the Historic Everett Theatre in Everett. Reed was elected in May after serving nine months as Chief Executive Officer.

U.S. Congressman Rick Larsen and Everett Mayor Ray Stephanson brought greetings to the new president. The Rev. Jerry Buss participated in the procession representing the Northwest Washington Synod and the Rev. Susan Kirlin-Hackett, dean of the Sno-Isle Cluster (whose pastors meet weekly on Trinity's campus), gave the benediction.

40th Anniversary

The year 2010 marked the 40th anniversary of the ordination of women among North American Lutherans. What seems fairly routine in this century was big news in 1970. The Lutheran Church in America voted in June of 1970 and thereafter ordained Elizabeth Platz; and The American Lutheran Church voted in October and ordained Barbara Andrews. Now almost 20 prcent of the ELCA clergy roster are women, and half of all ELCA seminary students. In our synod women are represented on all four rosters of the ELCA: Ordained, Associate in Ministry, Diaconal Ministry and Deaconess. Say thanks to one of these women when you see them, and give thanks for the ongoing witness of God's good news in Christ among all God's people.

Here are some thoughts from the Rev. Carol Jensen, St. John United in Seattle. Carol was ordained in 1990.

I had just graduated from college in 1970, the year the ALC and LCA voted to allow the ordination of women. That sense of calling had not yet come to me, but that year I met several women who had begun the path to ordained ministry. They included Karen Bloomquist and Robin Mattison, both went on to become not only pastors but also scholars. I also knew of Nancy Winder, a daughter of Phinney Ridge Lutheran in Seattle, where I attended, who began seminary shortly after. All three of these women have made an enormous contribution to the life of the church over the past 40 years. While many of us take women's ordination for granted, it has not been an easy road for women in ministry. I am grateful, though, for the gifts that women have brought to ordained leadership in God's church. This 40th anniversary of women's ordination in the ELCA, and its predecessor churches, remind me again that the Spirit moves as it will. God's gifts are sometimes bestowed in a manner that confounds our assumptions and pre-dispositions so the gospel can be proclaimed to the world.

Here 'n There

- On November 10 **Faith Lutheran in Redmond** held a Veteran's Day Assembly honoring local community veterans. Each branch of the armed services was represented. The assembly sang patriotic songs and prayed over the care packages prepared for men and women currently serving.
- **Two ELCA clergy from the Northwest Washington Synod** are part of the State Leadership Team for the Association of Professional Chaplains. Rev. Karen L. Hanson is the State Representative and Rev. Thomas Wert (Columbia Lutheran Home) is the State Membership Chairperson.
- **Camano Lutheran Church** women have been busy. The total number of items for the Fall 2010 shipment for Lutheran World Relief included 145 quilts, 492 health kits, 600 school kits, and 45 layettes. This combined with the Spring 2010 shipment made the totals for the year 366 Quilts, 1620 Health Kits, 161 layettes, and 600 school kits.
- **Turkey Trot To Stop Hunger**—Friday, Nov. 26, 8:30-11 a.m. at Green Lake Aqua Theater; more information is available on the synod's website under calendar or you can visit www.turkeytrot4hunger.org.
- **Maritime Chaplains** Vern Hunt, Everett Savage, Darrell Schoen and Paul Tan visit merchant seafarers from around 35 countries and 800 ships per year, offering pastoral care and help with day-to-day needs.
- **Magnolia Lutheran in Seattle** has a new website and its address is: www.magnolialutheranchurch.com.
- In the afternoons on Mondays **Oak Harbor Lutheran in Oak Harbor** opens its doors to students from Oak Harbor High School, located across the street. Members offer food, fellowship and even a place to do homework. In October, the congregation welcomed as many as 100

continued on page 14

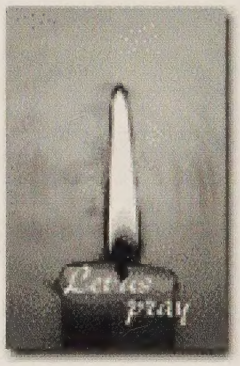
continued from page 13

Here 'n There

students at a time.

- In August **Salem Lutheran in Mount Vernon** donated $1350 from their Lenten offerings to Fir-Conway Lutheran for their Josephine Sunset Home BBQ fundraiser. The funds were used to purchase remote-controlled electric beds. With this donation and others from the BBQ, Fir-Conway was able to meet their goal of $3200. Thrivent matched the gift.
- During worship on November 14 **Holy Trinity on Mercer Island had** a blessing of drivers' licenses for those who had recently received their license.
- The youth at **Trinity in Kirkland** made and delivered sandwiches to the residents of Tent City on November 14. Not only was this a great service event but also gave the youth an opportunity to learn more about Tent City.
- **Bethany Lutheran on Bainbridge Island** will be welcoming the Rev. Martin Chan, pastor of Bethany's sister congregation in Chajabal, Guatemala, at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 20..
- **First Evangelical Lutheran in Mount Vernon** collected 108 coats, sweaters, sweatshirts and jackets to benefit Warm Closet in Burlington. The congregation also gave a dozen new scarves and hats made by their Knit & Crochet group.
- **First Lutheran in Bothell** gathered in October to enjoy a Tanzanian dinner and to share photos from their mission trip in June to Tanzania. They currently are raising funds to purchase a kerosene refrigerator and medical supplies.
- **Lord of Life Lutheran in Renton** sent 54 quilts, 51 layettes, 200 school kits and one bolt of fabric to Lutheran World Relief. They also sent 50 quilts to Compass Housing Alliance; and 13 afghans and 8 quilts to Project Linus.

Within Our Family



We continue To Hold In Our Prayers:

† **The Rev. John Ericksen (ret.)** and his wife, Marita

† **The Rev. Phil Petrasek (ret.)** and his wife Linda

† **The Rev. Paul Wuest**

We Pray For:

† **The Rev. Malcolm Brown's** wife's (Charlie Brown) 94 year old mother, Della Twite, passed away peacefully on October 22. Della had been living with Malcolm and Charlie in their home for more than two years. At the end of Della's great and blessed life, the Lord has led her safely home. Cards may be sent to Malcolm and Charlie c/o Bethesda Lutheran Church; 23406 56th Ave West; Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043.

† **The Rev. Palmer Gedde (ret.)** died on November 4 at his home in Yuma, AZ. His wife, Bev, was by his side along with their children are Terri, Jacki and Peter. The service is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, November 27, 2010.
Cards may be sent to: Mrs. Beverly Gedde and family; 9351 E. 28th St #104; Yuma, AZ 85365.

† **Renee McNeal, Associate in Ministry (ret.)** had knee replacement surgery on November 3 and has returned home. Cards may be sent to: Renee McNeal; 15015 SE 20th Street; Bellevue, WA 98007.

† **The Rev. John Recher (ret.)**had a heart attack on October 21. He is now home. Cards may be sent to: John and Janer Recher; 9064 Loyal Ave NW; Seattle, WA 98117.

† **The Rev. Larry Morris**, pastor at Holy Spirit in Kirkland, underwent an Atrial Fibrillation Ablation on October 29. Please hold Larry and family in your

continued on page 16

continued from page 14

Within Our Family

prayers. Cards may be sent to: Holy Spirit Lutheran Church; 10021 NE 124th; Kirkland, WA 98034-6798.

† **The Rev. Mary Bosell, On Leave from Call,** was diagnosed with breast cancer and underwent surgery on November 4. Cards may be sent to: Mary and Eric Bosell and family; 20333 Revilo Drive; Burlington WA 98233.

† **The Rev. Don Taylor (ret.) and his wife Helene Taylor,** are both currently on Hospice Care and have moved to a care facility in Mount Vernon. Our Saviour's in Bellingham is keeping the Taylors "wrapped in prayer" for which their daughter, Laurie VanderWeyst, is very grateful. Laurie sees her parents on a nearly daily basis. Cards may be sent to: Laurie (Taylor) VanderWeyst; 7607 - 72nd Drive NE; Marysville, WA 98270.

Prayers of Celebration:

† Please join t**he Rev. Katy McCallum Sachse,** pastor at Holy Spirit in Kirkland, and husband Brian Sachse in thanksgiving for the birth of their daughter Maren Grace Sachse on October 30. Cards may be sent to the Sachse family at: Holy Spirit Lutheran Church; 10021 NE 124th; Kirkland, WA 98034-6798.

Prayers:

† At the **regular Tuesday worship and synod staff meeting,** we pray for our pastors, churches and members. We pray for congregations in transition. We pray for rostered leaders who also are in transition, such as relocating or retirement. We pray for our companion synods in Russia and Ethiopia. We pray for all countries in turmoil. We pray for those affected by the recent layoffs at the churchwide office, and for Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson and all those making these difficult decisions. We pray for peace!

Northwest Washington Synod Transitions

	Location/Event	Effective Date
Calls Accepted		
Jeffrey Spencer	Oak Harbor, Oak Harbor	12/1/2010
Amanda Zentz	First, Mount Vernon	10/1/2010
Installations		
Jeffrey Spencer	Oak Harbor, Oak Harbor	12/5/2010
Andrew Yee	Josephine Sunset Home, Stanwood	10/3/2010
Amanda Zentz	First, Mount Vernon	10/16/2010
Leaving/Joining the ELCA		
Our Saviour's	Stanwood	9/19/2010
Mark Bankson	Our Saviour's, Stanwood	10/31/2010
Earl C. Ericksen (ret.)	Burien, Washington	9/27/2010
Victor C. Langford III	St. Mark's, Seattle	10/20/2010
Ordinations/Commissionings/ Consecrations		
Lara Forbes	Gloria Dei, Alderwood Manor	10/16/2010
Retirements		
Eduardo Cabrera	El Camino de Emaus, Burlington	10/1/2010
Mark Reitan	Trinity, Lynnwood	10/1/2010
Transfers in/out of Synod		
Jeffrey Spencer	From Southwestern Washington Synod	12/1/2010
Amanda Zentz	From Oregon Synod	10/1/2010
Occasions/Events		
Central, Seattle	120th Anniversary	11/7/2010
Northlake, Kenmore	50th Anniversary	12/12/2010
Our Savior, Issaquah	50th Anniversary	11/7/2010

Northwest Washington Synod Mobility

In Call Process	Position	Status	Current, Interim/Supply Pastor
Arlington, Our Saviour	PR	TR	Marillyn Schultz Rothermel, Interim
Bellevue, St. Andrew's	A/SP	P	James McEachran, Pastor
Bellingham, Our Saviour's	PR	NV	Supply
Burien, Glendale	PR	NV	Interim Pending
Des Moines, Grace	A/SP	I	John O'Neal, Pastor
Ferndale, Christ	PR	P	Christen Anderson, Interim
Monroe, Morning Star	PR	TR	Tim Wolbrecht, Interim
Mount Vernon, Fir-Conway	PR	TR	Paul D. Anderson, Interim
Nooksack, Clearbrook	PR	TR	Supply
Point Roberts, Trinity Community	PR	TR	Supply
Renton, Lord of Life	PR	I	Phil Reitz, Interim
Seattle, Central	PR	C	Kathleen Anderson, Interim
Seattle, Faith	PR	I	Red Burchfield, Interim
Seattle, Gethsemane	PR	TR	Maynard Atik, Interim
Seattle, Magnolia	PR	TR	Doug Stensby, Interim
Seattle, St Paul's of Shorewood	PR	TR	Supply
Stanwood, Freeborn	PR	TR	Supply

Mobility Position Key:

PR	= Pastor
A	= Associate
AIM	= Associate in Ministry
DM	= Diaconal Minister
A/SP	= Associate with Special Emphasis contact Synod Office)

Mobility Status Key:

I	= Interviewing
C	= Calling
NV	= New Vacancy
V	= Vacancy
SC	= Synod Call
TR	= Transition process
P	= Profile presented (receiving nominations)
TR/DO	= Div for Outreach Transformation Process